

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

To: Montgomery County Council

From: Dylan Prentice, resident of Montgomery County

RE: Supplemental Appropriation #23-9 to the County Government's FY23 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services Assistance to Access Abortion, Reproductive Health, and Related Services, \$1,000,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund: Undesignated Reserves)

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony on behalf of the proposed supplemental appropriation of the County's budget in regard to abortion access.

I urge you all to oppose this proposed supplemental appropriation. Regardless of where you stand along the aisle of politics, I think most of you would agree that the public, common good is at the heart of your work. I imagine and hope it is what drives you to serve Montgomery County and its citizens each day. Similarly, the founding fathers of the United States wrote in the preamble to the U.S.

Constitution that, as citizens of this great country, we are to "promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." In my understanding, to promote the general welfare and to secure liberty for ourselves and future generations means, at the very start, we must promote life and promote the existence of those future generations.

We, as citizens of Montgomery County, of Maryland, and of the United States of America, and you, as public servants of this County are charged with the duty to promote the common good and to preserve liberty for the future generations. I urge you each to oppose funding abortion access in our County because abortion access does not promote the welfare of our community and certainly does not promote liberty for future generations. There will be no future generations if their lives are taken away before they can even be born.

Some proponents of abortion argue that abortion is a 'reproductive right' for women and helps women live more equally in society, especially women of color and of lower socioeconomic statuses. I would argue that this is not the case. In fact, providing more abortion access to women of color and of lower socioeconomic statuses (who tend, unfortunately, to be women of color) actually contributes to a downfall of population of such people of color. If we want and advocate for racial diversity, then we should promote life not death via abortion. In addition, abortion

access is not a reproductive right because it goes against the natural and biological function of a woman's reproductive system. This is scientific fact. Further, abortion does not help women become more equal or equitable in society because it teaches all people that parenthood, specifically motherhood, is not an honorable, dignified, or desirable life's work or vocation. Motherhood, rather, is one of the most honorable and dignified vocations, and should be held as desirable. Moreover, abortion incorrectly teaches that human lives, if inconvenient or difficult for one person, are expendable and worth ending for another person. Instead, we must believe and live the reality that human life is beautiful, inherently dignified from conception (which the majority of biologists believe), and worth fighting for.

In conclusion, I urge and ask you to oppose the proposed supplemental appropriation of the County's budget for assistance of access to abortion because it is contrary to the common good of our County, the very County you have pledged to serve dutifully. Abortion access does not help women or anyone. Rather, abortion ends innocent, voiceless lives before they have gotten a chance to be born and speak for themselves. Abortion access does not promote general welfare or provide liberty for posterity. Rather, abortion eats away at the general welfare and takes away the liberty and very lives of posterity.

Please, regardless of your political affiliation, oppose this proposed supplemental appropriation. Instead, fund care and services that help women who become pregnant and need help or have crises during their pregnancies. Fund centers and clinics that assist mothers in finding housing, food, education, and employment. Instead of funding abortion which takes away from our society, put money towards embracing life. The people and the common good of Montgomery County will surely reap the rewards of such action for generations to come.

I thank each of you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dylan Prentice, concerned citizen of Montgomery County